

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 IGA-02 SP-02 L-03 IO-13
AGRE-00 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00
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P 211845Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4116

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0626

JOINT STATE/AID MESSAGE

ARA-LA/CAR/AID FOR BEHOTEGUY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, ECON, HA
SUBJECT: DONOR ASSISTANCE COORDINATION

REF: (A) STATE 037683, (B) PORT AU PRINCE 0539,
(C) PORT AU PRINCE A-13, 2/14/77

1. SUBSTANCE REF A PASSED TO MISSION DIRECTOR BEHOTEGUY AS HE
WAS LEAVING AIRPORT. HE PREPARED TO DISCUSS BUT EXPECTING THIS
MESSAGE AS FURTHER AMPLIFICATION COUNTRY TEAM VIEW.

2. OUR MESSAGE NEVER INTENDED TO SINGLE OUT SPECIFIC FAILURES
IN ERRORS IN DONOR COORDINATION. RATHER WE WANTED TO STRESS
IMPORTANCE OF FINDING MEANS OF ESTABLISHING SYSTEMATIZED AND
ONGOING COORDINATION AS ASSISTANCE GROWS AND DIVERSIFIES INTO
MANY SECTORS AND SUB-SECTORS. COUNTRY TEAM'S MAJOR CONCERN IS
THAT DONORS, IN EFFORT TO MEET HAITI'S ALMOST INFINITE NEEDS FOR
DEVELOPMENT, WILL SO STRAIN HAITIAN HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES
AS TO CAUSE SLOW DOWN OR BREAKDOWN IN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

3. PROBLEM CANNOT BE AVERTED BY PERIODIC AD HOC MEETINGS
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OF DONORS OR EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION ON PROJECTS ALREADY
PLANNED, APPROVED OR NEARING APPROVAL. IN ORDER TO
CALCULATE BURDEN ON LOCAL RESOURCES, AND HOW TO EASE THAT
BURDEN, EACH DONOR MUST HAVE GOOD INFORMATION AS TO WHAT
OTHER DONORS ARE PLANNING AND INFORMATION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE
EARLY. EACH MAJOR DONOR SHOULD HAVE INFORMATION AS TO WHAT
PROJECTS OR REQUESTS HAVE BEEN RAISED BY GOH WITH OTHER DONORS.

THIS WOULD AVOID SUCH RECENT ANNOYANCES AS GOH RAISING SEPARATELY WITH IDB AND IBRD GRANDIOSE RURAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT SCHEME. MAJOR DONORS SHOULD ALSO HAVE CLEAR AGREEMENT ON PRIORITIES TO FOLLOW AND IMPLEMENT.

4. WE ENVISAGE A SYSTEM OF ONGOING, CONTINUOUS COORDINATION AND EXCHANGE OF PLANNING DATA WHICH WOULD BECOME A SORT OF CLEARING HOUSE MECHANISM THAT WOULD PERMIT ALL DONORS TO PLAN IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ENTIRE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT IN HAITI. THIS CLEARLY CALLS FOR A PERMANENT STAFF OR SECRETARIAT, PREFERABLY IN WASHINGTON AND POSSIBLY UNDER OAS AUSPICES. CO-ORDINATION WITH OTHER BILATERAL DONORS WOULD CONTINUE AT COUNTRY LEVEL BUT AGREEMENT FROM ALL BILATERAL DONORS TO PASS INFORMATION THROUGH A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT WOULD CONSOLIDATE ALL INFORMATION. SEE DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED A-13 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF COORDINATION MECHANISMS FOR BOTH WASHINGTON AND HAITI.

5. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE GOH WOULD ACCEPT FORMAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP AS MEANS OF MANAGING DONOR COORDINATION. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE GOH COULD BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT EXPANDED ROLE FOR JOINT COMMISSION INCLUDING WASHINGTON-BASED JOINT COMMISSION PERMANENT STAFF THAT INCLUDED HAITIAN REPRESENTATION.

6. WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS FOR JOINT COMMISSION MEETING IN JUNE IN ORDER OF PRIORITY:
A. ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT STAFF FOR THE JOINT COMMISSION.
B. MESHING OF HAITI'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN WITH DONOR PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND PLANNED EXPENDITURES. (WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING THAT DONORS BE DOMINANT BUT THAT THERE BE DIALOGUE BETWEEN DONORS
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AND GOH ON A SYSTEMATIC BASIS AS TO WHAT CAN AND SHOULD BE DONE, AND WHEN.)

C. ESTIMATING FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FROM HAITIAN BUDGET AND NON-BUDGET (EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE) RESOURCES FOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AGREED TO AS FOLLOW-ON TO AGENDA (B) ITEM.

D. CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT FROM SPECIAL ACCOUNTS, ESPECIALLY REGIE, ON SYSTEMATIZED AND SCHEDULED BASIS.

E. NEED TO UPGRADE PERSONNEL OF DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES (AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND SOCIAL WELFARE) IN TERMS OF BETTER ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES, UPGRADING OF SKILLS AND IMPROVED SALARY SCALES. (FYI: GOH TELLS US IMF HAITI OPPOSES INCREASED SALARIES.)

F. NEED TO UPGRADE CONADEP, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF CONVEYING HAITIAN PRIORITIES TO DONORS.

7. PREPARATION OF AGENDA FOR JOINT COMMISSION MEETING SHOULD PROVIDE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR CARRYING OUT DISCUSSION WITH MAJOR DONORS OF IDEAS SUGGESTED PARAS 2-5. MEETING WITH MAJOR DONORS SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE OCCASION FOR DEVELOPING

THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF OUR DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES (RECOMMENDATION NUMBER ONE OF REFS B AND C AND SYNONYMOUS IN GOAL WITH AGENDA ITEM NUMBER TWO). WE RECOGNIZE THAT OUR PROPOSALS MAY NOT BE FULLY ACCEPTABLE TO ALL DONORS. PRIMARY GOAL IS

- A) TO ATTEMPT TO GET MAJOR DONORS TO RECOGNIZE IMPORTANCE OF REACHING BROAD CONSENSUS ON OVERALL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF HAITI;
- B) TO OBTAIN RECOGNITION THAT ONGOING COORDINATION OF MAJOR DONORS IS ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT FOR MAINTAINING DEVELOPMENT CONSENSUS AND CARRYING OUT SUCCESSFUL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;
- C) TO FIND MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF OBTAINING THAT COORDINATION.

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